

CATAWBA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGULAR MEETING

Catawba Regional Center
November 12, 2020

A regular meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments was held via Zoom at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020. Notice of the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and posted on the Council's website.

The following members were present:

Chester

Nettie Archie
Joe Branham
Sen. Mike Fanning

Lancaster

Sean Corcoran
Steve Harper
Charlene McGriff
Russell Patrick

Union

Rep. Doug Gilliam
Frank Hart, Chair
Margaret Holloway
Harold Thompson

York

Paul Basha
Mike Fuesser
Nikita Jackson
Derrick Lindsay
Scott Patterson
Greg Rutherford
P. N. Saksena
Wes Spurrier
Chad Williams
Robert Winkler

The following members were absent:

Chester

Jim Fuller
Wanda Stringfellow

Lancaster

Alston DeVenny
Eddie Moore
Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell

Union

Leroy Worthy

York

Wes Burton
Sen. Wes Climer
Christi Cox
Michael Johnson
Todd Lumpkin
David O'Neal
Guynn Savage
Rob Youngblood

Others present included:

Guests

Briana Bateman	Dr. Wylie Frederick
David Hudspeth	Rep. Randy Ligon
Rep. Annie McDaniel	Jerome Pearson
Teresa Thomas	Steve Willis

Staff

Randy Imler	Steve Allen
Autumn Cauthen	Amy Chitwood
Kara Drane	Nicole Lawing
Randy Pellisero	Grazier Rhea
Kathy Rice	Christine Schwartz
Cole McKinney	

The Quarterly Meeting of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments was called to order on Zoom by Chairman Hart followed by the roll call. A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Jimmy Neal. Mr. Neal formerly served as Chairman of the Catawba Regional COG Board and in the SC House of Representatives. Mayor Thompson delivered the Invocation. The minutes from the August 20, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

I. Review of October 31, 2020 (4 month) Operating Statement.

Ms. Chitwood reviewed the four month interim operating statement. Through October 31, 2020, total operating revenues were \$720,760 and total expenditures were \$714,894. Operating revenues exceeded expenditures by \$5,866. Passthrough revenues and expenditures were \$665,536 for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and \$20,717 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant. The COG closed \$758,000 in COVID-19 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loans in October. Net revenues less expenditures totaled \$763,866. The Board received this report as information.

II. Overview of Proposed CARES Act SC CDBG Program Funding.

Ms. Rhea presented an overview of the Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program. As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, \$5 billion was allocated to CDBG-CV to prepare for, respond to, and prevent coronavirus. South Carolina's CDBG-CV program has been allocated \$39,499,819. Funds will be distributed through the SC Department of Commerce in three rounds: CDBG-CV 1, which is the Public Services and Facilities Program, and CDBG-CV 2 and CV 3, which are for the Short-Term Housing Assistance Program. Catawba Regional Council of Governments staff are making plans for applications to be submitted for the CDBG-CV 1 Public Services and Facilities Program. Several questions were addressed. Ms. Rhea will forward additional information as it becomes

available. Ms. Rhea also encouraged Board Members to begin thinking about potential projects for the upcoming rounds of CDBG and Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) applications.

III. Consideration of Transportation Safety Targets for the Catawba Region.

Mr. Allen presented the Annual Safety Performance Targets for adoption into the Catawba Region's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Federal regulations require state DOTs to establish and report annual safety performance targets. Councils of Governments (COGs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to either adopt SCDOT's statewide safety targets or set their own regional targets. SCDOT has established statewide safety targets for the number of fatalities, fatality rate, number of serious injuries, serious injury rate, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. The Catawba Region's fatalities and serious injuries rates are trending higher than the state. The statewide safety targets were presented to and approved by the Executive Committee on October 22, 2020 and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) on October 27, 2020. A recommendation from the Executive Committee to adopt the statewide safety targets is brought to the Board as a motion and no second was required. The Board voted unanimously to adopt SCDOT's statewide safety targets for inclusion in the Catawba Region's Long Range Transportation Plan.

IV. Review of Transportation Project Rating/Ranking Methodology.

Mr. Allen reviewed the process for rating and ranking transportation projects for the rural portions of the Catawba Region. SCDOT provides a template and guidance on selection criteria and weighting. Catawba Regional Planning staff establishes scoring criteria and assigns point values to determine project rankings. The TAC, which consists of representatives from each county in the region, reviews and approves the rankings prior to projects being placed in the Catawba Region's LRTP or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The LRTP and TIP are then presented to the COG Board for final approval.

V. Consideration of FY2020-21 Update of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Mr. McKinney presented the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) which was emailed to Board Members prior to the meeting for review. The CEDs is required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to be updated annually in order for the region to be eligible to receive EDA funding. EDA provides data for the CEDs through the U.S. Cluster Mapping website in conjunction with the Harvard Business School. The most recent information provided shows an anomaly for the automotive sector in 2017. EDA and the Harvard Business School are reviewing the information to resolve the issue. EDA has instructed Mr. McKinney to include the information in the CEDs as-is and to update it once the anomaly is resolved. A motion was made to adopt the CEDs as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Review of Regional/County COVID-19 Transmission Data.

Mr. McKinney reviewed county, regional, commuter shed, and Catawba Workforce Development Area COVID-19 information. Transmission rates are approaching the previous peak from earlier in the year.

VII. Other Business.

The three SC Works Centers in the region are temporarily offering virtual services only after an employee with the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) tested positive for COVID-19. The DEW employee had been in contact with staff from all three locations.

Catawba Regional has scheduled Zoom meetings for next week with the region's county and city administrators, supervisors, and managers to share current COVID-19 related information and to discuss best practices.

VIII. Regional Roundup.

Representatives from each county provided brief highlights about projects and activities in their respective cities and counties.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Imler
Executive Director